

**REMARKS**

We have carefully considered the Office Action dated May 4, 2006, in which elected claims 2, 4, 21-24 and 28-30 are rejected under section 112 and also under section 102 as anticipated by US Patent 6,285,916 to Kadaba et al. In response to the section 112 rejections we have amended the claims to clarify the various terms mentioned in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Office Action, and thus, overcome the section 112 rejections.

In response to the Examiner's comments in paragraphs 12 and 13, we have amended the claims to clarify that information relating to the content of the mail pieces, messages from the senders of the mail pieces, transaction information related to the messages, and images of the contents of the mail pieces are all provided *in addition* to delivery status information. The steps and apparatus for providing of the information relating to the contents of the mail pieces as set forth in claims 4, 21, 30; the messages from the senders or information provided by the senders of the mail pieces as set forth in claims 2, 25, 28; related transaction information as set forth in claim 29 and images of the contents of the mail pieces as set forth in claims 22, 23 are not shown in the Kadaba reference. Rather, the Kadaba reference shows, teaches and suggests providing delivery status information. Accordingly, the Kadaba reference does not anticipate the independent claims as amended and the claims that depend therefrom.

The claims, as amended, should now be in form for allowance. We respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections of the claims, as amended, and issue a Notice of Allowance for the claims of the elected species and also for the claims of the

non-elected species of Group I in light of the allowance of the claims that are determined to be generic claims.

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Respectfully submitted,



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